

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

(a) Claims 1 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suso et al. (USP 6,069,648), in view of Gerszberg et al. (USP 5,949,474), and further in view of Martin et al. (USP 5,983,119). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Suso discloses an information communication terminal device having an upper case 1, a lower case 2, a housing member 8 provided between the upper case 1 and the lower case 2, a camera lens 9, and an antenna 10 extending from the upper case 1.

Suso, however, merely discloses the conventional antenna 10 as a radio antenna for outputting and/or receiving radio waves, and does not disclose or suggest that any of the non-communicating purpose components of the information communication terminal device can be used as a radio antenna.

The Examiner relies on Gerszberg and states that it shows a communication device with an antenna (222) and the electronic components within the case of the device are appropriately shielded by a metal clamshell structure to insulate the antenna from the components to prevent unwanted interference from the radio frequency transmission.

The antenna (222) of Gerszberg, however, functions only as an antenna for transmitting a radio wave and is not a component used for a non-communicating purpose.

Therefore, even assuming that Suso and Gerszberg can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one of ordinary skill in the art would merely conceive an information communication terminal device of Suso having an antenna of Gerszberg, which is concealed inside the housing of the Suso's device.

The Examiner further relies on Martin to show that it discloses a wireless communication device with an antenna moveably connected to the device housing to serve as an input device as well as an antenna.

Applicants respectfully submit that the antenna of Martin is an antenna and not a non-communication purpose component of a camera. In the claimed invention of the present application, a non-communication purpose element of a camera is used also as an antenna. This is totally different from a non-communication purpose component being used as an antenna because the purpose of the present invention is to eliminate the necessity of providing an antenna, which was not required in conventional cameras. In contrast, the wireless communication device of Martin has an antenna to begin with.

Moreover, one skilled in the art would not be motivated to combine Martin with Suso and Gerszberg because Gerszberg teaches concealing an antenna inside a housing, whereas Martin teaches an antenna that can be used by an operator as an input device for the wireless communication device.

Even assuming that Martin can be combined with Suso and Gerszberg, which Applicants do not admit, one of ordinary skill in the art would merely conceive an information communication terminal device of Suso having an antenna of Gerszberg, which is concealed

inside the housing of the Suso's device having a concealed antenna (or a partially concealed as stated in col. 9, lines 33-35), which can also be used as an input device as disclosed by Martin.

Since Suso, Gerszberg, and Martin all have a conventional antenna, they fail to disclose or suggest providing "a non-communicating purpose component attached to the camera housing, said non-communicating purpose component being a conductive component insulated from the camera housing but not shielded electromagnetically, the non-communicating purpose component also serving as a radio antenna, operatively connected with said communication device and outputting and/or receiving radio waves to/from said another unit," as required in claim 1.

Claim 13, dependent on claim 1, is allowable at least for its dependency on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(b) Claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Suso, in view of Gerszberg. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

In the Office Action dated August 4, 2005, the Examiner takes an Official Notice that it is well known in the art to configure any conductive component of an electronic communication device as an antenna in order to reduce the number of parts and miniaturize the device.

Then, in the Office Action dated January 23, 2006, the Examiner states that "the above is now considered prior art" because Applicants have not timely traversed the old and well know statement.

Applicants respectfully submit that Applicants have never admitted that it is well known in the art to configure any conductive component of an electronic communication device as an antenna.

This is evidence from the statement in the “Embodiment of the Present Invention” section in page 6 of the Reply filed on November 2, 2005, in which Applicants stated that:

The radio antenna is formed by a conductive component of the camera insulated from a camera housing, but not electromagnetically shielded, the conductive component serving a non-communication purpose for the camera, such that the conductive component is not dedicated solely to communication and instead serves as both an element for a non-communication purpose of the said camera and is also used as the radio antenna.

Applicants also maintained dependent claims 2-12, dependent on claim 1, and added new dependent claims 16-20, dependent on claim 14, which further define the conductive component. Such statements would not have been made if Applicants have admitted that it is well known in the art to configure any conductive component of an electronic communication device as an antenna.

In view of the foregoing statements, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw his or her forgoing consideration.

Further, as stated in the foregoing with regard to claims 1 and 13, Suso in view of Gerszberg merely teaches an information communication terminal device of Suso having an antenna of Gerszberg, which is concealed (or partially concealed) inside the housing of the

Suso's device, and does not disclose or suggest the "non-communication purpose component" of the claimed invention of the present application.

Claims 2-12, dependent on claim 1, are allowable at least for their dependent on claim 1.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

(c) Claims 14-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mack II et al. (USP 6,510,325), in view of Hanaoka (USP 5,757,332). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Mack II discloses, in Fig. 1A, a portable communication device 1 having a base segment 8, an upper segment 9 and a lower segment 10 attached to the base segment 8, a camera 7 mounted in the upper segment 9, a keypad mounted in the lower segment 10, and an antenna 5 extending from an upper end portion of the device 1.

Mack II, however, does not have "at least one member selected from a group consisting of a hot shoe to which an accessory is set, a reflector of a flash, a strap holding member to which a strap is attached, a lens tube for supporting the lens therein, a ring member that supports the lens with respect to the lens tube, a cover for a battery compartment, and a cover for a memory compartment," and connecting "one of said at least one member . . . to said communication device as a radio antenna . . . , said at least one member is formed by a conductive component insulated from a camera housing, but not electromagnetically shielded." Accordingly, Mack II fails to disclose or suggest the "at least one member" as recited in claim 14.

Hanaoka discloses a portable TV receiver 1 having a housing 2 and a strap antenna 3 extending from a lower corner from the housing 2. Hanaoka, however, does not have “at least one member selected from a group consisting of a hot shoe to which an accessory is set, a reflector of a flash, a strap holding member to which a strap is attached, a lens tube for supporting the lens therein, a ring member that supports the lens with respect to the lens tube, a cover for a battery compartment, and a cover for a memory compartment.”

Therefore, even assuming that Mack II and Hanaoka can be combined, which Applicants do not admit, one of ordinary skill in the art would only conceive a portable communication device having a strap of Hanaoka that replaces the antenna 5 of Mack II.

None of the cited references, taken singly or in combination, discloses or suggests “at least one member selected from a group consisting of a hot shoe to which an accessory is set, a reflector of a flash, a strap holding member to which a strap is attached, a lens tube for supporting the lens therein, a ring member that supports the lens with respect to the lens tube, a cover for a battery compartment, and a cover for a memory compartment,” and connecting “one of said at least one member . . . to said communication device as a radio antenna . . . , said at least one member is formed by a conductive component insulated from a camera housing, but not electromagnetically shielded” as recited in claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that Hanaoka does not disclose using the “strap holding member” as an antenna because, as shown in Fig. 9, Hanaoka merely discloses attaching the strap 3 to the housing 2 by engaging locking blocks 21a, 21b with locking slots 26a, 26b, and the antenna is electrically connected to the receiver 1 by inserting an antenna jack 20 into an antenna

plug 24. In other words, the locking slots 26a, 26b, which arguably corresponds to the “strap holding member” of the claimed invention of the present application does not function as an antenna.

Claims 15-20, variously dependent on claim 14, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 14.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of the pending claims in the present application are respectfully requested.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

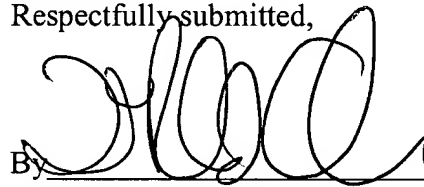
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If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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